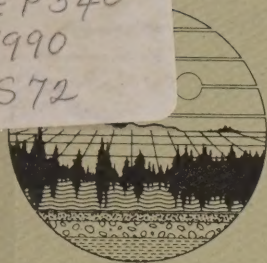


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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN CANADA

ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS



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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES IN CANADA

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"...Our basic principle will be...sustainable development...in considering any development, any project, any program, we will make its environmental consequences as fundamental a test as we now apply to its economic feasibility. Economic development and a clean and healthy environment are allies, not enemies..." (Prime Minister Mulroney's speech in Hamilton, October 19, 1988).

This report covers a range of sustainable development actions and plans in Canada through to August 1990. It is an updated and expanded version of an earlier report entitled, Sustainable Development Initiatives in Canada, A Federal Perspective: A Brief Overview of Activities In Progress, that was printed in February 1990.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv.
1. INTRODUCTION	1.
2. THE GREEN PLAN FOR CANADA	2.
3. FORMATION OF THE ROUND TABLES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT	3.
4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA	5.
5. FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES	11.
6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES	19.
7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL JURISDICTIONS	23.
8. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY OTHER PARTNERS	25.
9. CONCLUSION	27.
ANNEX A: ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM - PRODUCT CATEGORIES WITH APPROVED GUIDELINES	29.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable development is the change in perspective required as a solution to global environmental degradation. It requires the integration of environmental and economic factors into the mainstream of decision-making in all sectors, at all levels. Simply, we can have economic development over the long-run only if we maintain the long-term health and integrity of the environment.

In 1986 the World Commission on Environment and Development visited Canada. Following the visit of the Brundtland Commission which called for sustainable development, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) established a **National Task Force on Environment and the Economy** with a mandate to foster and promote environmentally sound economic development. Membership of the Task Force was a remarkable mix of senior industrial executives, environment ministers, academics and environmentalists. In 1987 the Task Force published a succinct report, with over forty path-breaking recommendations for governments, non-government organizations and the private sector. The Task Force's recommendations were endorsed by the federal, provincial and territorial governments. In 1989, the Government of Canada began preparation of the Green Plan for Canada.

The primary purpose of this document is to briefly describe the sustainable development initiatives taken by the federal government. It also highlights those initiatives taken by provincial, municipal, and private agencies. As such, this report will focus on the development of the Green Plan for Canada, the progress of the Round Tables, the sustainable development actions of Environment Canada and the federal government as a whole. Finally, the report will document selected significant sustainable development actions by the provinces and local jurisdictions as well as Canadian business, academic and non-government organization (NGO) partners.

2. THE GREEN PLAN FOR CANADA

The Government of Canada is in the midst of preparing a national agenda for the environment. Referred to as the **Green Plan: A National Challenge**, this statement will set the government's sustainable development mandate for the 1990's. Its long-term objective will be to make Canada, by the year 2000, the industrial world's most environmentally friendly country.

Achieving this objective will require specific measures by governments and by a wide range of partners. To solicit Canadians' views and input to the Green Plan, Environment Canada, in cooperation with the other federal government departments, organized a nation-wide consultation process on the Green Plan discussion paper - **Framework for Discussion on the Environment**, from March to August 1990.

In implementing sustainable development in Canada, the Framework identified the need for fundamental changes in the way individuals, businesses, industries and governments make decisions. These changes can be facilitated by improving the factors that affect decision-making, changing existing decision-making processes and institutions, and building and strengthening international and national partnerships. Several key factors will lead Canada to better decision-making: improved environmental science; reliable information; improved environmental education; effective legislation and regulation; and better use of economic instruments in pursuit of environmental objectives.

In changing existing decision-making processes and institutions, the Government of Canada realizes that their day-to-day decisions on business matters can have a significant impact on the environment. There is a need for greater accountability in decision-making and a more consistent commitment to environmental protection. Therefore, the Government of Canada will systematically review its policies, laws and regulations and propose modifications as necessary. Furthermore, the federal government is proposing to adopt a "code of environmental

stewardship" that sets specific goals and establishes operating procedures.

Building environmental concerns into decision-making at an early stage will require co-operation at all levels. Internationally, Canada seeks to develop and improve bilateral and multilateral relationships to address global environmental problems. Possibilities include greater funding to support the activities of international environmental institutes as well as funding and technology transfer to help developing countries overcome environmental problems. Within Canada, the Government is committed to continuing and strengthening federal/provincial and territorial co-operation to reduce uncertainty, avoid duplication and increase the effectiveness of its environmental efforts. Similarly, the Government is interested in strengthening its partnership with business, labour, NGOs and individuals, whose ideas and co-operation are vital to the effective incorporation of environmental concerns into the decision-making process.

The Green Plan Discussion Framework identified several areas of action: responding to key stresses such as toxic substances; waste and environmental emergencies; addressing issues associated with our use of the global commons; managing our renewable soil, forest and fishery resources on a sustainable basis; preserving and protecting Canada's unique ecological and heritage resources through the creation of national parks; and protecting Canada's fragile Arctic. Release of the Green Plan is scheduled for fall, 1990.

3. FORMATION OF THE ROUND TABLES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A major recommendation by the CCME National Task Force on Environment and the Economy was that the federal government, provinces and territories should each form multi-sectoral Round Tables, "to bring existing organizations together to co-operate on environment-economy integration".

As of July 1990, all but one of the provinces and territories have established their own round tables, with the Newfoundland round table in the final stages of development. **The National Round Table on the Environment and Economy** (NRTEE) held its inaugural meeting in June 1989. The NRTEE is chaired by David L. Johnston, Principal and Vice Chancellor of McGill University. Its membership includes senior federal and provincial cabinet ministers, corporate executives and other prominent people in academia, research and environmental non-government organisations.

The mandate of the round tables in Canada is to serve as a catalyst for bringing about change, to build consensus on sustainable development, to produce sustainable development strategies and provide an independent forum in which Canadians from different sectors may work co-operatively.

In pursuit of its mandate, the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy has developed five specific aims. First, it evaluates and reports on the effects of current government policies on the environment and the economy in areas including fiscal policy, taxation, royalties, subsidies and regulations. Secondly, it evaluates and reports on decision-making processes in the public and private sectors and makes recommendations on how they might be changed to better reflect the principles of sustainable development. Thirdly, it promotes sustainable development practices in the field of waste management with an initial focus on residential and commercial waste management. Fourthly, it focuses on policies relating to external trade, bilateral and multilateral agreements, aid and other foreign policies in order to encourage and support sustainable development internationally. Finally, it develops means to communicate principles of sustainable development to all levels of society in order to stimulate changes in individual and societal values, goals and behaviors.

In March 1990, the **Canadian International Institute for Sustainable Development** was established in Winnipeg. The Institute was

first announced by Prime Minister Mulroney in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1988. The Institute is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the principles of sustainable development within and between the public, private, and voluntary sectors, on a national and international basis. Policy analysis, education, research, scientific knowledge, local assessments and international exchanges are all within the scope of the new institute.

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY ENVIRONMENT CANADA

In partnership with other departments, the provinces, industry, the academic community and NGOs, Environment Canada has undertaken a number of new initiatives to make sustainable development the way of doing business. Some significant examples include:

- . The **Environmental Choice Program**, provides for the testing and distinctive labelling of consumer products that meet standards of environmental quality. By choosing products that maximize energy efficiency, that use recycled or recyclable materials, and minimize the use of environmentally hazardous substances, Canadian consumers can have an immediate and personal influence on the health of the planet. To date, guidelines containing certification criteria for fourteen product categories have been completed and approved (see complete list in Annex A) with thirty-three brands having been certified by the Canada Standards Association under these product guidelines.

- . The **Environmental Partners Fund** will provide up to half the financial resources for community projects that clean up, restore or enhance the natural environment. A fund of \$50 million to be made available over five years has been set aside to help local groups take action. After three rounds of review, 250 community projects have been approved nationally and granted financial aid. The projects include environmental and habitat rehabilitation, recycling, composting, conservation, waste disposal/collection and

clean-up.

. During Environment Week, in June 1990, Environment Canada released a booklet entitled **"What We Can Do For Our Environment"**. It provides individual Canadians with a wide range of ideas on specific actions that they can take in the home, school, office and supermarket to conserve energy, reduce waste, buy environmentally friendly products, and generally, develop habits and lifestyles that help to conserve and protect the environment. Thus far, nearly 500,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed. An updated edition will be completed in September 1990.

. The **Success Stories Bank (SSB)** is a growing information base of the best illustrations of initiatives by business, government and communities which can provide economic benefit, while contributing to the sustainable use of Canada's natural resources and the environment. Examples include innovative composting programs, adoption of cleaner technology, wildlife management, and "Green Office" plans, to name a few. These success stories serve as a catalyst for action by providing government, business and industry, universities, community organizations, the media and individuals with viable and practical examples of the successful integration of environmental concerns into everyday economic activity and decision-making. Each story in the Bank provides a list of resource people to help others take similar action. Over 100 stories about environmentally sensitive and cost-effective products, services and practices have been completed, and 600 clients have made use of the Success Stories Bank in support of their sustainable development initiatives.

. The **Globe 90 Trade Fair and Conference** held in Vancouver in March 1990 provided a showcase for many of the most advanced environmental technologies and innovative ideas for sustainable development in the world. Some 3,500 participants from approximately 50 countries gathered to identify and develop

practical means of meeting environmental challenges, and to restructure business opportunities toward environmentally-sound economic development. The trade fair contained over 600 exhibitors, largely private sector firms. The conference brought together experts from industry, government, finance and business as well as environmental consultants, advocates, and academics. Proceedings are to be published in the fall, 1990.

. **Environmental Assessment** is a key element of sustainable development. The proposed Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, which is currently in its second reading before the Parliament of Canada, will strengthen the present review process. It will entrench in legislation the federal government's obligation to integrate environmental considerations into its project planning and implementation processes. It will determine which projects require the most attention by identifying those projects likely to cause significant impact on the environment, those projects which are similar to others previously assessed, and those projects that do not pose environmental risks. It will also facilitate the creation of special procedures for assessments in relation to: native lands, foreign aid, federal support to exports, Crown Corporations and domestic commercial activities receiving federal financial support. The legislation may also provide the basis for broader environmental review of federal policies and programs.

. Sustainable development considerations are being incorporated into the development, negotiation and implementation of **federal-provincial Economic and Regional Development Agreements**. Changes in the goals and objectives of agreements, procedures and project screening criteria ensure that environmental factors are considered at the project planning stage. This has been particularly successful in Atlantic Canada where the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA) has adopted "ensuring a sustainable environment" as one of the key themes in the policy framework to be used in negotiating all federal-provincial Co-operation Agreements. In addition, specific sustainable

development sub-agreements are being formulated.

. Canada and the Province of Quebec have initiated the **St. Lawrence Action Plan** to restore the environmental quality of the St. Lawrence River. The project, designed to be a model of sustainable development, has four main components: protection, environmental technologies, conservation, and restoration. Initiatives include, among others, toxic reductions, development of a research centre on environmental technology, ecosystem assessment, habitat protection and rehabilitation of wetlands. For example, the plan includes the creation of a marine park, located at the mouth of the Saguenay River, to protect Canada's natural marine heritage including endangered wildlife species such as the beluga whale. The Plan is also identifying the wastes of the 50 largest polluters along the St. Lawrence River and is developing and applying clean-up technology specifically adapted to these polluters. The entire plan is expected to require an expenditure of over \$6 billion in the next ten years, with long-term environmental and economic benefits to more than offset this investment.

. The **North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)** provides an international, public-private sector framework for co-operative waterfowl and habitat conservation initiatives. It will channel \$1.5 billion over fifteen years into maintaining and restoring waterfowl habitats, primarily in the Canadian Prairie provinces. The plan aims for improved habitats through better land use and management to increase the waterfowl population and sustain related economic activity. It is an excellent example of a sustainable development program under which resource users (in this case, American and Canadian hunters) fund initiatives to sustain and enhance the resource (waterfowl habitat) on which they rely.

. Consultations with provincial/territorial and federal agencies on the second draft of **Federal Policy on Wetland Conservation** are

almost completed. A final draft is expected to be available in the fall, 1990. Working primarily through existing programs and regulatory and decision-making processes, the Policy is designed to advance wetland conservation and sustainable use across Canada. On April 9, 1990, the Prime Minister of Canada stated his commitment to this policy initiative at the **Sustaining Wetland Forum**, a national policy conference on wetland habitat.

. **Improvements in monitoring and reporting on the state of the environment** are under way to better inform economic decision-makers of environmental issues and consequences. Environment Canada and Statistics Canada collaborate on a state of the environment report every five years, the next being scheduled for the fall of 1991. These departments are also jointly establishing a national environmental reporting system, including the development of environmental indicators and national environmental accounts. Environment Canada is developing a **national network for environmental information** to improve nationwide accessibility to environmental data and information through interactive electronic communications technology. In addition, Canada will be hosting a major **International Symposium on Environmental Information** in the spring of 1991.

. The **Canadian Parks Service** is developing a sustainable development strategy which will build on past and current efforts to maintain the integrity of heritage resources and public enjoyment of this heritage on a sustainable basis. Long-standing practices include: the application of a complex zoning system for the management of the national parks; annual environmental assessments and reviews of hundreds of initiatives to mitigate, sometimes eliminate, detrimental environmental impacts; regional integration approaches, such as participation in the Man and Biosphere Program, which facilitates partnerships in the conservation and sustainable use of resources; and a new biennial

State of the Parks report to the Parliament of Canada on the Service's ability to protect and commemorate Canadian heritage resources.

The sustainable development strategy will expand on these practices. It will focus on completing the systems of National Parks and National Marine Parks and the commemoration of new sites of historical significance in Canada. Contribution to sustainable tourism will be pursued through the monitoring of resource use, partnership arrangements for product development, marketing, etc. Interpretation of heritage resources and broader environmental questions will also represent a major component of the strategy. The management of heritage resources and of demand for their use and enjoyment will be based on scientific research and analysis. Finally, the Service will aim to practice environmentally sensitive purchasing.

. The National Packaging Protocol (NAPP) was endorsed by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) at the Globe '90 Conference and Trade Fair in March, 1990. The six policies recommended are: (1) packaging shall have minimal effects on the environment; (2) priority will be given to the management of packaging through reduction, reuse and recycling; (3) a continuing campaign of information and education will be undertaken to make all Canadians aware of the function and environmental impacts of packaging; (4) these policies will apply to all packaging used in Canada, including imports; (5) regulations will be implemented as necessary to achieve compliance with these policies; and (6) all government policies and practices affecting packaging will be consistent with these national policies. As a first step, ministers established a 1992 interim national target of a 20% reduction over 1988 levels of packaging. Ministers challenged the packaging industry to initiate measures voluntarily to meet the interim target while agreeing to prepare compatible legislation and regulations.

. Research to provide the methods and tools for building environmental concerns into economic decisions is proceeding at Environment Canada, along with other partners, and includes:

- (1) Analysis of the potential use of fiscal and taxation instruments to achieve environmental goals;
- (2) Studies of the cost and pricing of municipal water supply and treatment to promote water conservation;
- (3) Studies of incentives, especially of subsidy programs, to eliminate or re-direct subsidies favouring unsustainable development and practices, and initiate or expand subsidies that favour environmentally sustainable practices. **Common Ground**, a report to Environment Canada, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Agriculture Canada, which identifies opportunities to re-direct subsidies to support improved soil, water and habitat management on Canadian farms, is one such example;
- (4) A national survey of 80,000 Canadians on the importance of wildlife to provide strategic knowledge on the demand for and the socio-economic benefits resulting from wildlife habitat and other renewable resources for the use in program and policy initiatives;
- (5) A study evaluating the benefits in industrial, residential and recreational industry growth and economic diversification that resulted from the clean up of pollution damage in the Sudbury area; and
- (6) Studies to test valuation methods and processes which indicate fairly and comprehensively the value to society of renewable resources and the environment (e.g. wetlands) for use by economic decision-makers.

5. FEDERAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

The Canadian Government as a whole, in concert with the provinces, is endeavouring to build the knowledge base needed to support sustainable development implementation, change the way decisions are made, undertake partnerships to achieve sustainable development, and communicate how to follow a sustainable development approach. Highlights of federal actions include:

. Implementing Sustainable Development in Federal Natural Departments, an interdepartmental workshop for federal managers in

natural resource departments was held in May 1990. Organized by Environment Canada in collaboration with seven federal departments, the workshop was attended by representatives responsible for incorporating sustainable development principles into their own departments' decision-making processes. Sustainable development principles, opportunities and barriers, as well as the use of techniques and instruments for implementing sustainable development programs, were the focus of the workshop. Key recommendations included: reinforcing management accountability for the environmental impacts of their programs; supporting environment-economy integration in federal decision-making; building partnerships; harnessing market forces to achieve environmental objectives; specific scientific research to support environmentally sensitive decisions; and, effective communications on sustainable development concepts and practices to officials, business and the public.

. **Agriculture Canada:** Increased environmental sustainability is one of the four pillars of Canada's agricultural policy review. Environmental sustainability means ensuring that farmers respect the need to preserve the carrying capacity of the natural resource base and that agricultural policies and programs do not contribute to the degradation of the environment. The **Federal-Provincial Task Force on Environmental Sustainability** was established by the Minister of Agriculture to develop an action plan to address the natural resource base and environmental issues facing Canada's Agrifood sector. Its report outlines actions required for changes in land management practices, research needs, policy and program reform, and educational needs within the agricultural sector (July, 1990). The report to Ministers of Agriculture concludes that "an agro-ecosystem approach to managing the sector is the key to conserving or enhancing the natural resources that agriculture uses or shares". An interim Soil and Water Conservation Policy has also been prepared.

The federal government's Pesticide Registration Review Team has issued a preliminary report proposing a revised regulatory system for pesticide registration and pest management. Recognizing the principles of sustainability, the team recommends modifications to ensure the efficient federal regulation of pest control products, and to minimize the risk to human health and the environment while meeting the needs of the stakeholders, including the public. The team will present a final report to the Minister of Agriculture in December, 1990.

. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is supporting integrated approaches that link the social, environmental and economic dimensions of development. In its strategy document "Sustainable Development: The Urban Dimension", CMHC identified urban issues as central to the goal of sustainable development and indicated that cities face a series of challenges in energy consumption, resource use, policy development and planning which have to be met. More recently, CMHC co-sponsored an International Colloquium, entitled "Human Settlements and Sustainable Development" (June, 1990). Current research initiatives include examining (1) the extent of housing risk associated with climate change, (2) the effect of toxic lands on the health and safety of residents, and (3) the avoidance or reduction of radon gas emissions into homes. Results from these and other activities are helping to establish a framework for research, policy and program development regarding sustainable development and housing.

. The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) plans to play a significant role in encouraging developing countries to shift to more sustainable forms of development. Since 1986, CIDA has had an environmental strategy that has included: environmental impact assessment of all proposed CIDA projects; according priority to new programs and projects that improve the environment and restore natural resources; informing the public about environmental needs; and, support of institutions that are environmentally sound. In 1988, the Canada's Official Development

Assistance Charter was adopted and confirmed this environmental strategy.

One of CIDA's key environmental initiatives has been its support for the Tropical Forestry Action Plan (TFAP) which seeks the right balance between development and environmental protection. The more recent "CIDA And Sustainable Development" report (1989) makes a number of recommendations for changes in CIDA's policies and internal processes that are central to a commitment to sustainable development.

. **Energy, Mines and Resources (EMR)**, is currently developing guidelines and principles for the sustainable development of Canada's minerals and fossil fuels. Present EMR sustainable development initiatives in mineral resources include work on recycling and environmentally responsible management of wastes, especially tailings and effluent. Energy initiatives under consideration emphasize the more efficient use of conventional energy sources, and more environmentally benign combustion and process technologies along with the advantages gleaned from recycling. Research and development of better energy technologies for conventional fuels as well as the development of alternative energy sources including renewables, are important components of EMR's initial response to the sustainability challenge. A key environmental thrust of the department is support to baseline scientific research both to increase knowledge of the environment and enhance understanding of the impacts of human activity on the environment.

. **Finance Canada:** Sustainable development has been described as a hard-headed re-thinking of economic policy which makes environmental costs as integral a consideration as the cost of labour or capital. The Finance Department is looking at channelling the forces of the market place through incentives and disincentives to favour sustainable forms of development. In 1989 a paper was prepared for the **Bergen Conference** which argued for a

strong multisectoral cooperative effort in the reconciliation of sustainable development with the more traditional approaches to economic development. Moreover, it stressed the "formulation of innovative economic solutions to incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making". The principal areas addressed included: informed decision-making through scientific research and analysis; the advancement of sustainable development through existing or modified institutional structures and policy instruments; making decision-makers accountable for the evaluation of the environmental effects of their policies and programs, and, use of monitoring to provide reliable and balanced environmental information.

. **Fisheries and Oceans:** Through its Office of Sustainable Development, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) is pursuing, jointly with the provinces and territories, the development of a Sustainable Fisheries Policy for Canada. It is also undertaking a federal strategy for sustainable fisheries, including consultation with fishermen. The department is also working with other federal departments (e.g. agriculture, forestry, mining) to achieve sustainable development in sectors that impact on aquatic ecosystems, and is promoting actions for an international sustainable fisheries strategy. The Sustainable Fisheries Policy will set forth principles, objectives and approaches for government, the fishing community, industry and citizens to work together for sustainable fisheries. It will be supported by a National Action Plan.

. Work towards a Sustainable Fisheries Policy for Canada builds on a series of specific sustainable development policy and program initiatives by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. These initiatives were designed to sustain the fishery resource, protect marine ecosystems and provide economic opportunities. Highlights of these policies and programs include the Oceans Policy, 1987; the discussion paper for an Arctic Marine Conservation Strategy, 1988; the Recreational Fisheries Strategy, 1988; the Atlantic Salmon

Conservation Strategy, 1984 and renewed in 1989; the Salmonid Enhancement Program, 1987; and, the 1986 Policy for the Management of Fish Habitat which espoused the principle of no net loss of productive fish habitat.

. The mandate of **Forestry Canada** is "to promote the sustainable development and competitiveness of Canada's forest sector for the well-being of present and future generations of Canadians" as stated in the Forestry Act (November, 1989). As such, the department's objective is to foster integrated management and sustainable development of Canada's forest resources. Key initiatives related to sustainable development include (1) encouragement of better wood utilization through improved processing, more value-added production and product innovation; (2) development of environmentally friendly and efficient manufacturing processes and the recycling of forest products; (3) promotion of a national network of ecological reserves and identification of well-managed forests for demonstration across Canada; and, (4) a substantial increase in support for science and technology programs in biotechnology, forest ecosystem dynamics and forest management systems. Federal funding through Federal-provincial Forest Resource Development Agreements (FRDAs) will, among other goals, be used to support national objectives of enhanced environmental quality and sustainable development.

. The **Department of Health and Welfare Canada** is helping fund the **Canadian Healthy Communities Project**. Developed by the Canadian Institute of Planners, the Canadian Public Health Association and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, the project serves as a catalyst, resource and network that integrates environmental, economic and health (social) concerns in order to contribute to a growing understanding of the health problems facing Canadian urban areas today. Comprehensive approaches, involving extensive community input and initiative, are employed to improve the conditions for human health in cities. Central to the program is the concept that such problems are better resolved by public

policy interventions than by traditional health system activities. The objectives and results of the programs in various communities can be similar to those of local sustainable development strategies.

. **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: The Indian Affairs Program** has undertaken a number of initiatives to incorporate environmental concerns into its decision-making. For example, a guidebook entitled "Environmental Screening Guidelines For the Economic Development Sector" has been prepared and distributed to all regions. In-house training on the applications of the guidebook will be complete by October, 1990. A similar guidebook is now being prepared for all Native Community Economic Development Organizations (CEDOs). All funding agreements with CEDOs will contain requirements for environmental protection.

. **The Northern Affairs Program** is involved with many sustainable initiatives, including the Arctic Environmental Strategy which will deal primarily with the integration of environment and economy, pollution, management of renewable resources, and protected areas. The Working Group on Northern Conservation, with members representing federal government, territorial governments and native organizations serves as a co-ordinator for the various conservation and sustainable development strategies and actions being implemented by member organizations. It has participated in an international initiative to propose a framework within which circumpolar countries can work to ensure that the integrity of the Arctic region is maintained, consistent with the principles of sustainable development. There are a number of specific northern initiatives based on sustainable development principles. One example of this type of initiative is the Sanikiluaq community-based project, which has integrated scientific and local environmental knowledge in its management plan for the sustainable development of the Belcher Island reindeer herd. As such, the community will be able to maintain the benefits and security of a locally available food supply and will profit from any commercial

use of the reindeer. It is part of a larger initiative to transfer management skills and develop a renewable resource strategy.

. **Industry, Science and Technology Canada (ISTC)** in exercising its mandate to ensure the competitiveness of Canadian industry, has undertaken a number of environment-related initiatives ranging from a policy on regulatory advocacy to environmental industry and technology development. "Environment and Economy: The Challenge to ISTC", a policy paper dealing with ISTC's plans to assist Canadian firms to address fully the challenges and opportunities presented by sustainable development, will be available shortly. On the regulatory side, ISTC and Environment Canada have established a Memorandum of Understanding to promote the development of regulations which reflect both environmental and international competitiveness objectives. In terms of industry development, ISTC has launched an Environmental Industries Sector Initiative, involving extensive consultation with key stakeholders, to analyse the economic characteristics, markets and critical technologies associated with the environmental industry so as to enable Canadian industry to take advantage of the business opportunities associated with environmental protection, conservation and sustainable development. The Department is contributing \$20 million over 5 years for the Environmental Technologies Development Program, a component of the St. Lawrence River Action Plan, through which funding is available to Canadian companies for the development of new or improved technologies that reduce or eliminate water pollution from industrial sources. With respect to tourism, the Department has also produced "An Action Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development" and is in the process of establishing a federal-provincial working group to implement sustainable tourism practices across Canada and a pilot project to undertake an environmental audit of one sector of the tourism industry.

. In April 1990, the **Science Council of Canada** launched a two-year study that focuses on the capacity of science and technology to

shape the agriculture and food industry and their potential to promote a sustainable agriculture system.

. In addition to the specific initiatives cited above, other federal departments are also making strides in the area of sustainable development. **Supply and Services Canada** established the **Papersave Program** which collects recyclable office paper from 86 buildings in the National Capital Region. Approximately 11,000 tonnes of waste paper - equivalent to 209,000 trees or 475 hectares of forest - were collected through Papersave during the 1989/90 fiscal year. **Canada Government Printing Services** have led the way in experimenting with printing on recycled paper for federal government publications. **Greening the Hill**, an environmental action plan to promote a "more environmentally friendly and sensitive" House of Commons, has been completed (June, 1990). The program's goal is to replace environmentally harmful policies, practices and materials, and increase environmental awareness among staff on Parliament Hill as an example to all Canadians. The **Governor General** is following a similar environmental plan for his office and residence. The **National Capital Commission (NCC)** is revising its **Greenbelt Plan** to contribute to a sustainable, environmentally sensitive National Capital Region. Finally, federal departments are also working together to improve internal operational practices to reflect sound environmental principles.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY PROVINCES AND TERRITORIES

All ten provinces and the two territories are at varying stages in the process of developing conservation or sustainable development strategies. While the concept originates with the World Conservation Strategy the term "sustainable development strategy" has been adopted by most jurisdictions in an attempt to highlight the need to integrate environmental and economic issues, and emphasize the broad objective of sustainable development as a response to the more recent work of the World Commission on Environment and Development.

The **Prince Edward Island Conservation Strategy** was adopted as official government policy in April 1987. The PEI Conservation Strategy's mission ensures that the concept of sustainable development, through measures of conservation and environmental management, is an integral part of the way government, non-government organizations and the private sector does business. Implementation of the strategy is the responsibility of the Strategy Coordination Office which in turn facilitates the linkages between departments and other organizations requiring support. Several initiatives have been undertaken in support of the implementation of the strategy including the Island Conservation Assistance Program, a young environmentalist program and a scenic heritage road program. In addition, the Provincial Round Table on Environment/Economy is currently drafting a sustainable development discussion paper that will highlight what sustainable development means for key economic sectors and local initiatives.

The **Yukon Conservation Strategy** was completed in May 1990. Actions and recommendations are set out for government, industry and individuals. Government commitments are included within the broader context of the strategy including departmental action plans and funds for sustainable development demonstration projects. The Yukon Council on Environment and Economy will be overseeing the implementation of both the Conservation Strategy and the Yukon Economic Strategy which, together, are seen to constitute a sustainable development strategy.

The Renewable Resources Department of the **Northwest Territories** Government is preparing a sustainable development strategy in two phases: the Policy and the Action Plan. The Policy portion, based on a discussion paper and public consultations, has been submitted to Cabinet. Further consultations and development of the Action Plan will proceed after approval of the Policy. An NWT round table will be set up in the fall of 1990.

In **British Columbia** a provincial Round Table on Environment and Economy has been given the mandate of preparing a strategy for achieving sustainable development. The Round Table will also be advising the provincial government on land-use conflict issues, initiating public education programs on sustainable development and looking at establishing a provincial Institute of Sustainable Development. The Round Table is reporting to a recently established provincial government Cabinet Committee on Sustainable Development.

Alberta's Round Table on Environment and Economy, established in May of 1990, has a mandate to advise the provincial government on a sustainable development strategy. The secretariat to the Round Table will be the Environmental Council of Alberta (ECA) a Crown corporation at arms length from the provincial government. The Public Advisory Committees to the ECA have been consulting the public extensively on an Alberta conservation strategy since 1986 and a number of sectoral reports have been prepared to stimulate discussion on topics such as agriculture, non-renewable resources and city planning.

Saskatchewan's Round Table on Environment and Economy is developing a provincial conservation strategy. Proposed objectives have been adopted. Eleven advisory groups have been established with wide representation from across the province to prepare recommendations on how to achieve sustainability in priority sectors including agriculture, tourism, flora and fauna and transportation. A draft strategy will be prepared based on the input from these advisory groups and broad public consultations.

The **Manitoba** Round Table on Environment and Economy is preparing a sustainable development strategy for the province. The provincial government has established extensive institutional structures for sustainable development decision-making. The Sustainable Development Unit of the Government of Manitoba is the Secretariat to the Round Table and also reports directly to the Premier. The strategy will be made up of principles and guidelines for sustainable development and a number of component strategies such as, for example, Household and

Neighbourhood, Environmental Business and Urban Development. The Public Sector component strategy is being implemented internally and a first draft of an Energy component strategy will be released soon. The soil and water sectoral policies under the Land and Water component strategy have been approved by Cabinet and a forest policy is undergoing a public consultation process.

The Ontario Round Table on Environment and Economy is preparing a provincial sustainable development strategy which will provide specific goals for government and the private sector. An initial "Challenge Paper" on sustainable development was released in July 1990 and will be followed by public and stakeholder consultations leading to the development of a second paper. Sectoral action plans will be developed and then consolidated to produce the final strategy. The strategy development process will include the establishment of demonstration projects.

The Quebec Round table on Environment and Economy is preparing a sustainable development action plan which aims at integrating environmental considerations within economic and policy decisions. The action plan includes projects, current or proposed, that exemplify sustainable development objectives at all levels whether local, regional or provincial.

In the province of New Brunswick a Steering Committee, reporting to the Premier's Round Table on Environment and Economy, has been established to coordinate all the activities related to the development of a sustainable development/conservation strategy. An initial round of public consultation has taken place to focus public attention and inform the public about some of the pertinent issues. Thirteen sectoral reports will be integrated along with concerns raised during consultations. These will form the basis for a draft strategy that will be released in late 1990 for further public consultations.

In Nova Scotia, the nucleus of a conservation strategy steering committee has been created under the Nova Scotia Round Table, to direct the preparation of a mission statement and outline a process for developing a conservation strategy. The Committee will hold public workshops and hearings on the objectives and content of a Nova Scotia conservation strategy.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador is reviewing the terms of reference for a provincial Round Table on Environment and Economy and preparing recommendations on the development of a provincial conservation strategy.

7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY LOCAL AND REGIONAL JURISDICTIONS

At the local level citizens and their elected representatives are becoming more aware of the seriousness of environmental issues ranging from the degradation of global natural resources down to local problems such as overburdened land-fill sites. This has resulted in many initiatives to incorporate environmental concerns into all aspects of local decision-making.

Special advisory committees are being established in a number of urban centres to encourage the incorporation of environmental considerations into local decision-making. The City of Peterborough in Ontario, for example, has an established Sustainable Development Advisory Committee which makes recommendations on local policy and programs.

Some local jurisdictions are proposing the development of comprehensive sustainable development strategies. Such an approach is being looked at in the Saguenay/Lac St-Jean region of Quebec. In Clayoquot Sound, British Columbia, a steering committee is overseeing a community process for formulating a sustainable development strategy for the area.

Other communities are working with existing planning mechanisms to incorporate environmental considerations into local decision-making. The City of Ottawa, for example, envisions sustainable development as the main guiding principle of its official plan which will include a conservation strategy as one component. The City of Richmond, British Columbia, incorporated a number of objectives and principles related to sustainable development into its official plan.

Municipalities have also made adjustments to local bureaucratic structures in order to assist with the incorporation of environmental considerations into decision-making and the implementation of sustainable development. In Burnaby, British Columbia, the position of Ecosystems Planner was created to bring an ecosystem perspective to planning and project evaluation and to educate citizens and the municipal government. In the City of Toronto, an Environmental Protection Office provides environmental research and information services and screens development applications.

Programs to reduce and recycle household waste have been introduced in many communities across Canada. The recycling of bottles, cans and newsprint through separation by the householder and curbside collection in a "blue box" is a program familiar to many Ontario residents. Composting of kitchen and yard waste by residents is also being encouraged by communities such as Toronto and Ottawa through the distribution of home composters to households at a reduced price. Large scale community composting is being considered by some municipalities, but thus far is restricted to the seasonal collection of leaves and yard waste.

Some local jurisdictions are developing policies and programs in response to global issues. The City of Toronto, for instance, is looking at initiatives to reduce carbon emissions as a contribution to dealing with the "greenhouse effect" and global climatic change. Metropolitan Toronto will be hosting an international conference on urban sustainable development issues and the municipal response. Called "Metro World 1991", it will take place in June 1991.

A variety of regional initiatives across the country are also attempting to incorporate sustainable development objectives. The Lancaster Sound Regional Land Use Plan in the Northwest Territories and the Eastern Slope Management Plan in Alberta, are examples of existing processes that are multi-sectoral and bring together environment and development issues. The Meewasin Valley One Hundred Year Conceptual Master Plan in Saskatchewan is an example of a more novel approach to integrating conservation and development issues within a region. Also noteworthy is the development of an Inuit Regional Conservation Strategy (IRCS) by the Inuit Circumpolar Conference to secure Inuit traditional lands, conserve the self renewing capacity of Arctic natural resource and ecological processes, and develop Inuit economies in a sustainable manner. Ultimately, the IRCS is seen to be an integral part of a proposed international circumpolar conservation strategy.

8. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ACTIONS BY OTHER PARTNERS

Twenty Canadian universities and colleges nationwide have begun to establish research institutes for sustainable development or develop programs for the interdisciplinary exploration of sustainable development issues as part of their regular curricula. Programs that explore sustainable development issues are increasingly becoming part of the established curriculum in faculties of social science and the humanities, as well as in the agricultural, biological, physical, and veterinary sciences. Many agencies are getting involved in the funding of such programs. For example, Dow Chemical Canada Inc. and Inco Ltd. have financed a course in managing sustainable development, in the University of Western Ontario's business school. Some proposed research at these institutes includes the analysis of environment-economy interactions to build environment into decision processes, the examination of human use of the seas, the promotion of sustainable food production systems, the modelling of sustainable futures, environmental accounting systems, and the building of sustainable development into the decisions of business and industry.

Attitudes of Canadian business and industry associations over environmental and sustainable development are changing rapidly. In May 1989 the **Business Council on National Issues**, a non-profit, non-partisan organization of chief executives of 150 leading Canadian enterprises, formed an Environment/Economy Group. The Council is committed to improving the environment and providing recommendations for developing and promoting environmentally sound economic policies and practices. Similarly, the **Canadian Chamber of Commerce** has produced a Task Force report entitled "A Healthy Environment for a Healthy Economy: A New Agenda for Business". It is aimed at raising the level of awareness within the Canadian business community to the challenge of environmentally-conscious business practices.

Individual companies are not only investing heavily in new environmentally-safe technology, but are also changing the way they manage their corporations and design their products. Many now have an executive officer responsible for environmental planning. **Dow Chemical Canada, Imperial Oil, Falconbridge, Inco**, to name a few, have developed environmental policies or codes, and in some cases, sustainable development principles and models, to guide future operations and development. Some companies now have environmental sections in their annual report, and Dow Chemical Canada produced a separate Environmental Progress Report in 1989, one of the first in Canada. Other companies are undertaking environmental audits and developing long-term sustainable development plans. Financial institutions have also become involved. For example, the **Royal Bank** and **Credit Desjardins** have recently adopted environmental policies to guide their internal operations and have made a commitment to invest only in environmentally sound projects. Several investment funds that focus on environmentally sound companies and projects have also been established in Canada. At the retail level, major grocery chains have introduced lines of environmentally sensitive products which have gained public acceptance and proved economically successful.

Environmental non-governmental organizations have played a vital role in raising the level of environmental awareness and literacy among government, business, community and individual decision-makers. For instance, the **Canadian Environmental Network (CEN)**, works with eight Regional Networks to facilitate communication and interaction between 1800 environmental groups across Canada. The CEN maintains neutrality on issues, but acts as liason between environmental and governmental groups. Many ENGOs have been very active nationally, regionally and locally in helping identify environmental problems and potential solutions. As well, many of these groups have participated actively in the consultation sessions on the formation of a Green Plan for Canada, and are active in round tables at all levels.

9. CONCLUSION

The need to promote environmentally sustainable and equitable forms of economic activity and lifestyles has become increasingly recognized in recent years by all Canadians. This poses a big challenge for government. The federal government has officially endorsed the concept of sustainable development and has launched a variety of initiatives to promote it, most notably, nationwide consultations and research leading to the development of the Green Plan for Canada, and the reform of the federal environmental assessment and review process.

A start has been made, but the implementation of sustainable development strategies and actions in federal departments and other jurisdictions will require a long term approach. It is unrealistic to expect that policies, laws, regulations and decision-making criteria, processes and approaches, many of which have existed for decades, can all be modified immediately. This implementation will require a systematic approach building on inter-related and mutually reinforcing initiatives, including a comprehensive review of the specific environmental effects of existing and proposed policies and programs.

As the overview in this report shows, environmental actions are now under way in all jurisdictions, involving a wide range of partners. These initiatives will lead to a more sustainable Canada.

ANNEX A

ENVIRONMENTAL CHOICE PROGRAM -
PRODUCT CATEGORIES WITH APPROVED GUIDELINES

READY FOR ECOLOGO APPLICATIONS FROM MANUFACTURERS

- Re-refined lubricating oil
- Construction materials from wood-based cellulose fibre
- Products made from recycled plastic
- Batteries: zinc-air
- Paint: water-based
- Fine paper from recycled paper
- Miscellaneous products from recycled paper
- Newsprint from recycled paper
- Heat recovery ventilators
- Diapers: cloth
- Solvent based paint
- Reusable shopping bags
- Automotive fuels - ethanol blended gasoline
- Composting systems for residential use

